



CITY OF TAUNTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

*Taunton City Hall
141 Oak St. Taunton, MA 02780*

*tauntonpathways@gmail.com
www.taunton-ma.gov/pathways-committee*



*Phillip Duarte
Chair*

*phillipduarte67@gmail.com
(774) 218-5107*

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING Thursday, July 11, 2019 @ 7:00pm Municipal Council Chambers ~ Temporary City Hall 141 Oak St. ~ Taunton, MA 02780

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm by Phillip Duarte

Members Present:

Phillip Duarte
Jonathan Gray
Karen Letendre
Madeline Silva
Deb Levesque
James Dufresne
Scott Martin
Eric Andrade - Mass in Motion

Members Not Present:

Will Mendonca
Dick Shafer
Jake McNamara
Bill Napolitano - SRPEDD

Public Input: *None*

Reports:

Update from the Chair

- TMLP/DPW/BETA Meeting
 - After our last meeting in May, BETA sent out minutes for the TMLP/DPW/BETA meeting that occurred on April 30th. See BETA minutes attached.
 - In those minutes, there were four points that required clarification:
 - Phase 2 will be from Cleary Flood Drive, across TMLP property, along wetland line to Railroad Avenue.

- Phase 2 will be from Cleary Flood Drive, across TMLP property along the wetland line to the railroad right-of-way, then along the right-of-way to Railroad Avenue.
- TMLP does not want the bike path to bisect their property. TMLP indicated the area must be as contiguous as possible for public safety and future infrastructure considerations. This means the only option for the bike path location is along the wetland, behind the homes along Somerset Avenue, as close to the perimeter of the property line as possible.
 - BRR/Stantec understand that the alignment should be between the solar field and wetlands and not between the Somerset Avenue homes and the wetlands.
- BETA asked if a parking area at the end of Phase 1 of the bike path could be situated near Cleary Flood Drive (just off Somerset Avenue) with a separate access/curb cut to Somerset Avenue, which could minimize interaction with TMLP vehicle access along Cleary Flood Drive, and provide a “trail head” for the Phase 1 portion of the bike path.
 - A trail head with parking and separate access from Somerset Avenue has not been part of the trail design per the City, BRR, and Stantec. The end of the trail at Cleary Flood Drive is a temporary end because the plan for the trail is to continue as described above.
- TMLP is committed to funding the portion of the bike path/access road, so long as solar fields/effluent project is confirmed. If no solar/effluent project is required, TMLP indicated it cannot commit to fund the bike path in the Phase 2 portion of the bike path. TMLP will fund Phase 2 of the bike path, if solar work/effluent project proceeds.
 - This is not consistent with the letter of July 18, 2018 from TMLP to the Taunton Pathways Committee.
- Upon reviewing these minutes, Phil discussed these points of clarification with Brown, Richardson, and Rowe and arranged a meeting with the Mayor between all parties on June 5th. See Brown, Richardson, and Rowe minutes attached.
- At the June 5th meeting, Ken Goulart from TMLP advised that they will be building the solar array regardless of whether or not the wastewater discharge project is necessary. In addition, he reaffirmed the commitment of the TMLP to the section of the trail associated with their access road.
 - The design and engineering for the solar array, access, road, and trail will happen while waiting for the determination of if the wastewater discharge project is required. The solar array would be ready for construction in the summer of 2020 and would last until fall of 2021. This would mean that the timing of the solar array and trail projects are more or less on the same schedule.
 - Ken requested that Phil and the design team do a presentation for the TMLP Commission.
 - The easement over the 491 and 655 West Water Street properties was also discussed. Attorney de Abreu suggested that we approach the City Council about obtaining the easement by eminent domain taking. Cathal O’Brien

from DPW said he would reach out to one of the lessees of 491 West Water Street about getting in contact with the actual owner.

- Phase 1 (West Water Street to Cleary Flood Drive) Timeline
 - Preliminary design by June 30, 2019 (FY2019)
 - Final design and permitting in winter 2020 (FY2020)
 - Bid set in spring 2020 (FY2020)
 - Bidding, contract, and construction start after July 1, 2020 (FY2021)
 - Construction until fall 2021 (FY2021 and FY2022)
 - Concept-level estimate: \$3.3 million to be spent over FY2021 and FY2022
- Jon brought up the fact that the trail will cut off the connection between the 491 and 655 West Water Street properties. Phil will talk to Brown, Richardson, and Rowe about if access should be retained through a trail crossing.

Subcommittee Updates

- Advocacy: *None*
- Marketing: *None*
- Outreach:
 - Taunton River Festival
 - The event overall was a great success. People were engaged at the table. About 20-25 people participated in each of the two historic walks that took place. The participants enjoyed it and we gave away all of the copies of the slideshow.
 - Deb will send Katie MacDonald from the Old Colony History Museum a thank you note.
 - Jon will update the map of the walk to include the photos and information from the slideshow.
 - Phil will upload the slideshow to the Taunton Pathways website.

Old Business: *None*

New Business:

Debrief of Public Information Meeting

- There was a good turnout, including supporters and concerned neighbors. The main concerns that were raised included:
 - Parking at the end of Railroad Avenue
 - Safety on the trail, especially in wooded areas
 - Dirtbike and ATV usage in the area of the trail

Next Steps

- Follow up with Brown, Richardson, and Rowe about when they will start designing the Railroad Avenue end of the trail
- Invite relevant members of the Police Department to the next meeting to discuss safety and dirtbike/ATV usage
 - Sergeant Joseph Marques - community policing

- Sergeant Christopher Brady - bike patrols
 - Lieutenant Eric Nichols - dirtbikes/ATVs
- Organize walk-throughs with the neighborhoods that abut the trail
- Send a letter to the City Council about pursuing an eminent domain taking of the easement on West Water Street

Announcements:

- Next Meeting:
Wednesday, August 7, 2019 @ 7:00pm
Municipal Council Chambers ~ Temporary City Hall
141 Oak St. ~ Taunton, MA 02780

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm by Phillip Duarte